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SENATE BILL 3014 By
Womack

HOUSE BILL 2929
By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49 and Title 55, relative to motor vehicle fees and the use of such fees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

55-4-1__.

(a) In addition to any fee authorized by this part, a person required to register a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this title shall pay a fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) at the time of registration or renewal.

(b) For the purpose of this section, "motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled excluding motorized bicycles and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

(c) In addition to the fee authorized by subsection (a), every county clerk shall be entitled to a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for each motor vehicle registered or renewed pursuant to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-6-107, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the proceeds of the fees collected pursuant to Section 1 of this act shall be deposited into the Volunteer Scholars Fund established in Section 3 of this act.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

Section 49-3-____.

(a) There is created in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "Volunteer Scholars Fund".

(b) Moneys shall be deposited to the fund pursuant to Section 2 of this act and shall be invested for the benefit of the fund pursuant to § 9-4-603.

Moneys in the fund shall not revert to the general fund of the state, but shall be distributed annually as provided in subsection (c).

(c) Moneys accumulated in the fund shall be distributed at the beginning of each fiscal year as follows:

(1) Fifty percent (50%) of such funds shall be distributed to the "dedicated education fund" established by § 49-3-352 and distributed in accordance with the basic education program to be used only for the purposes of:

(A) Retention of instructors, including, but not limited to salary incentives, provided that no funds authorized pursuant to this subdivision shall be expended on any person employed in an administrative capacity;

(B) Purchasing educational equipment; and

(C) Maintaining and renovating existing educational facilities.

(2) Two and one-half percent (2½%) of such funds shall be distributed to state institutions of higher education by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in accordance with the higher education funding formula to be used only for the purpose of distance learning.

(3) Two and one-half percent (2½%) of such funds shall be distributed, pro rata, to the court with juvenile jurisdiction in each county. The amount distributed to each court shall be the same percentage of the total sum as the percentage of motor vehicle registrations or renewals in that county bears to the total number of motor vehicles registered or renewed in the state.

(4) Forty-five percent (45%) of such funds shall be used to fund "Volunteer Scholarships" in accordance with Section 3 of this act.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-4-7__.

(a) The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation shall administer a scholarship program for Tennesseans seeking to obtain a postsecondary education at educational institutions in Tennessee which have been declared eligible to participate as lenders in the guaranteed student loan program or the auxiliary loans to assist students program by and under regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Education and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

(b) Awards made through this program shall be known as "Volunteer Scholarships".

(c) Funds for Volunteer Scholarships will be provided annually pursuant to the Volunteer Scholar Fund. The Tennessee Student Assistance Program shall make awards in an effort to maximize the funds received to assist the greatest number of qualified candidates. The Tennessee Student Assistance Program shall develop guidelines for the amount and frequency of awards.

(d) The Tennessee Student Assistance Program shall develop criteria for Volunteer Scholarship candidates, including, but not limited to, residency requirements, achievement standards and enrollment standards.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.